

**Regulatory Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper
Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 13)**

Frequently Asked Questions
June 2013

What is the purpose of Regulatory Amendment 13?

- Regulatory Amendment 13 revises the acceptable biological catch estimates, annual catch limits (including sector annual catch limits), and recreational annual catch targets for 37 un-assessed snapper-grouper species.
- The revisions incorporate updates to the recreational data for these species, as per the new Marine Recreational Information Program as well as revisions to commercial and for-hire landings.

Why is Regulatory Amendment 13 necessary?

- Regulatory Amendment 13 is necessary to avoid triggering accountability measures for these snapper-grouper species based on annual catch limits that were established by the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment using recreational data under the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey system.
- National Marine Fisheries Service no longer uses the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey and now estimates recreational landings using the Marine Recreational Information Program.

Which species are affected by Regulatory Amendment 13, and what are the revised numbers?

- The action in Regulatory Amendment 13 affects 37 snapper-grouper species: 31 species in the deepwater, jacks, snappers, grunts, shallow water groupers, and porgies complexes; as well as six individual stocks, as shown in the table below.

Stock or Stock Complex Name	Revised values under Regulatory Amendment 13					
	Acceptable biological catch (pounds whole weight)	Commercial allocations (percent)	Commercial annual catch limit (pounds whole weight)	Recreational allocations (percent)	Recreational annual catch limit (pounds whole weight)	Recreational annual catch target (pounds whole weight)
Deepwater	711,025		376,469		334,556	197,100
Yellowedge grouper	30,221	90.77%	27,431	9.23%	2,790	1,395
Blueline tilefish	631,341	50.07%	316,098	49.93%	315,243	187,443
Silk Snapper	25,104	73.95%	18,564	26.05%	6,541	3,270
Misty grouper	2,863	83.42%	2,388	16.58%	475	237
Sand tilefish	7,983	22.17%	1,770	77.83%	6,213	3,107
Queen snapper	9,466	92.50%	8,756	7.50%	710	355
Black snapper	382	95.92%	366	4.08%	16	8
Blackfin snapper	3,665	29.91%	1,096	70.09%	2,569	1,284
Jacks	457,221		189,422		267,799	165,590
Almaco jack	302,517	48.70%	147,322	51.30%	155,195	109,288
Banded rudderfish	145,434	26.01%	37,829	73.99%	107,605	53,802
Lesser amberjack	9,270	46.07%	4,270	53.93%	5,000	2,500
Snappers	944,239		215,662		728,577	624,197
Gray snapper	795,743	24.23%	192,830	75.77%	602,913	534,422
Lane snapper	119,984	14.75%	17,695	85.25%	102,289	78,087
Cubera snapper	24,680	19.57%	4,829	80.43%	19,851	9,925
Dog snapper	3,285	8.31%	273	91.69%	3,012	1,506
Mahogany snapper	548	6.49%	36	93.51%	512	256
Grunts	806,652		218,539		588,113	442,970
White grunt	674,033	31.59%	212,896	68.41%	461,136	363,283
Sailors choice	22,674	0.00%	0	100.00%	22,674	11,663
Tomtate	80,056	0.00%	0	100.00%	80,056	54,887
Margate	29,889	18.88%	5,643	81.12%	24,246	13,137

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Shallow water groupers	96,432		49,776		46,656	23,595
Red hind	24,867	73.60%	18,303	26.40%	6,564	3,282
Rock hind	37,953	60.90%	23,115	39.10%	14,838	7,419
Yellowmouth grouper	4,040	1.10%	44	98.90%	3,995	1,998
Yellowfin grouper	9,258	52.70%	4,879	47.30%	4,379	2,190
Coney	2,718	24.45%	665	75.55%	2,053	1,026
Graysby	17,597	15.74%	2,771	84.26%	14,827	7,680
Porgies	143,263		36,348		106,914	59,319
Jolthead porgy	37,885	4.15%	1,571	95.85%	36,315	22,537
Knobbed porgy	67,441	51.18%	34,515	48.82%	32,926	16,509
Saucereye porgy	3,606	0.01%	0	99.99%	3,606	1,803
Scup	9,306	0.00%	0	100.00%	9,306	4,653
Whitebone porgy	25,024	1.05%	262	98.95%	24,762	13,817
Individual stocks						
Atlantic spadefish	189,460	18.53%	35,108	81.47%	154,352	96,470
Blue runner	1,125,729	15.77%	177,506	84.23%	948,223	723,684
Bar jack	24,780	21.25%	5,265	78.75%	19,515	9,758
Gray triggerfish	626,518	43.56%	272,880	56.44%	353,638	284,325
Scamp	509,788	65.34%	333,100	34.66%	176,688	94,316
Hogfish	134,824	36.69%	49,469	63.31%	85,355	59,390

Who will be affected by Regulatory Amendment 13?

- Commercial and recreational fishermen in South Atlantic federal waters (3-200 miles offshore), off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida who target snapper-grouper species.

When will Regulatory Amendment 13 be effective?

- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved the amendment on December 6, 2012.
- The comment period on the proposed rule ended on April 22, 2013. The final rule published on June 17, 2013, (78 FR 36113) and regulations will be effective on July 17, 2013.

Where can I get more information on Regulatory Amendment 13 and its Proposed Rule?

- Contact National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office
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St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- Regulatory Amendment 13 and its rulemaking may be found online at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>
or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.